

# Local Working Groups



## What is a Local Working Group?

The locally led conservation effort is the foundation of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service's conservation program delivery process. The local working group supports locally led conservation by coordinating programs with other Federal, State, tribal, and local conservation programs to provide an integrated solution to addressing natural resource concerns.

## What Happens at Local Working Group Meetings?

Every year, NRCS along with conservation districts host Local Working Group meetings where farmers, landowners, conservation partners and other members of the community discuss the natural resource needs for a county. Based on feedback from those meetings, NRCS updates the county's Long Range Plan and develops new Targeted Implementation Plans to address those resource concerns.

## Purpose

Local working groups provide recommendations on local natural resource priorities and criteria for NRCS conservation activities and programs. Local working group responsibilities include:

- Developing a conservation needs assessment to identify conservation solutions to natural resource problems.
- Identifying priority resource concerns that can be addressed by NRCS programs.
- Assisting NRCS and the conservation district with public outreach and information efforts.
- Identifying educational/informational needs.

## Membership

Local working group membership should be diverse and focus on agricultural interests and natural resource issues existing in the local community. Membership should include agricultural producers representing agricultural production within the local area; owners of nonindustrial private forest land; representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations; and representatives of governmental agencies carrying out agricultural and natural resource conservation programs and activities. Local working group membership may include:

- NRCS district conservationist
- Members of conservation district boards
- Members of the county Farm Service Agency (FSA) committee
- FSA county executive director
- Extension Service agent
- State or locally elected or appointed officials
- Other Federal and State government representatives
- Representatives of American Indian governments
- Representatives of agricultural and environmental organizations

## LWG Meetings

- Occur at least once each year
- Are open to the public
- Are facilitated and conducted as an open discussion among members

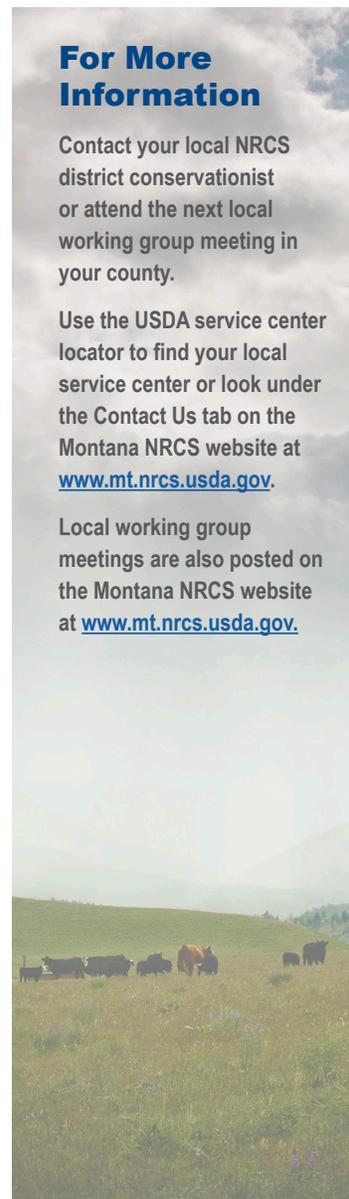
Local working group meeting notices are posted on the Montana NRCS website at [www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov).

## For More Information

Contact your local NRCS district conservationist or attend the next local working group meeting in your county.

Use the USDA service center locator to find your local service center or look under the Contact Us tab on the Montana NRCS website at [www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.mt.nrcs.usda.gov).

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